



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Santa Fe National Forest

Cuba Ranger District
P.O. Box 130
Cuba, New Mexico 87013
505-289-3264

File Code: 1950

Date: August 18, 2004

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed for your information is the Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Chiquito, Gurule, Llaves, Ojitos, and Pollywog Range Allotments. The decision approves cattle grazing under a mixture of deferred and rest rotation, grazing systems. Specific details related to the number of pastures, rotational system, and number and types of improvements for each allotment are provided in the Environmental Assessment and are summarized in the attached Decision Notice. The allotments are located along the northern most portion of the Santa Fe National Forest on the eastern edge of the San Juan Basin.

A proposed action with preliminary alternatives and effects analysis was provided in the format of a pre-decisional EA for public comment on June 16, 2004. A Notice of Availability was published in the *Albuquerque Journal* on June 19, 2004, marking the beginning of the required 30-day comment period. Five comments were received during the comment period (Project Record #28). A review of comments indicated that many were already addressed in the EA or in the supporting documentation provided in the project record; those not already addressed were identified and subsequently addressed in the attached Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact. In reviewing all comments, it was determined that three commenters provided substantive comments, and as such, have standing to appeal.

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215 by individuals or organizations that submitted substantive comments during the 30-day comment period (36 CFR 215.6). An appeal must be filed (regular mail, fax, email, hand-delivery, or express delivery) with the Appeal Deciding Officer. Submit appeals to: Appeal Deciding Officer, Gilbert Zepeda, Forest Supervisor, Santa Fe NF, P.O. Box 1689, 1474 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe, NM 87504-1689, fax: (505) 438-7834, email: appeals-southwestern-santafe@fs.fed.us (.doc, .rtf, .txt formats only). If hand delivered, the appeal must be received at the above address during business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm), excluding holidays. The appeal must have an identifiable name attached or verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature may serve as verification on electronic appeals.

Appeals, including attachments, must be in writing, fully consistent with 36 CFR 215.14, and filed (postmarked) within 45 days following the date the legal notice of decision is published in the *Albuquerque Journal*. This publication date is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an appeal. Those wishing to appeal this decision should not rely upon dates or timeframes provided by any other source.

Permittees on the Chiquito, Gurule, Llaves, Ojitos, and Pollywog Range Allotments may appeal the Decision under 36 CFR 215 or 36 CFR 251, but not both. Under 36 CFR 251, a Notice of



Appeal must be consistent with 36 CFR 251.90 and filed simultaneously with the Forest Supervisor, Gilbert Zepeda, Appeal Deciding Officer (above listed address) and Cuba District Ranger Steve Romero (Cuba Ranger District Office, P.O. Box 130, Cuba, NM 87013), within 45 days from the date of publication of the legal notice.

If no appeals are filed within the 45-day time period, implementation of the decision may occur on, but not before, five business days from the close of the appeal filing period. When appeals are filed, implementation may occur on, but not before, the 15th business day following the date of the last appeal disposition.

Sincerely,

STEVE F. ROMERO
District Ranger